THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): Development and promotion of places of tourist spots/interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves including the State of Madhya Pradesh. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides funds for development of different tourist places on the basis of field visits/consultation with the States/UT Administrations concerned and on receipt of project proposals from them complete in all respect as per guidelines.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a project proposal for Integrated Development of Central Circuit (Heritage, Nature & Wildlife circuit) Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orchha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas Bhimbetka-Pachamrhi-Kanha, Jabalpur (Bhedaghat) involving Central financial assistance of Rs.910.82 lakh during 2002-03 and 2003-04. The execution and maintenance of the project is the responsibility of the State Government.

Decline in tourist traffic in Jammu and Kashmir

†1290. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to increased terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, foreign tourists have been turning towards Himachal Pradesh but after some incidents with foreign tourists specially after one of the Israeli tourist found missing mysteriously, the overall tourist traffic has been adversely affected in the State;

(b) if so, whether Government have asked the State Government to find out the facts regarding the missing tourist;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to boost tourism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) On the basis of information received from the Department of Tourism, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, a growth of about 15% has been registered in the total tourist traffic to the State during the year 2004 (January to October) as compared to the same period of the
year 2003

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) As per the information received from the State Government, no incident involving mysterious missing of any Israeli tourist has been reported in the State in the recent past.

(d) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories. The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir has designated tourism as a priority sector and initiated measures and mobilized resources for economic revival and employment generation in the State. A major infrastructure programme has been taken up under which a package of financial assistance and subsidy to House Boat owners, Hotels & Guest Houses, Shikara owners and Ponywalas is given under the scheme of Ministry of Tourism for the revival of tourism in the State. Besides, the State has enhanced its presence/participation in a large number of events, conferences and conventions of the tourism sector held within and outside the country with the support of Ministry of Tourism.

Decline in tourist traffic

1291. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourist traffic for North India has come down from 68 per cent to 42 per cent during the last two decades;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of strategy worked out, if any, for the growth of tourist traffic in the Northern region and also to check any similar decline of tourist traffic in other regions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Figures are not compiled on regional basis.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to augment the tourist traffic to India which include:—

- Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and Print media through the "Incredible India" Campaign.
- Creation of World Class Collaterals.